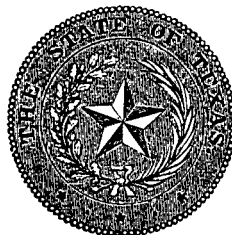


JOURNAL
OF THE
House of Representatives
OF THE
FOURTH CALLED SESSION
OF THE
FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
BEGUN AND HELD AT
THE CITY OF AUSTIN, OCTOBER 12, 1934




PRESS OF VON BOECKMANN-JONES CO., AUSTIN, TEXAS

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker laid before the House, and had read the following message from the Governor:

Executive Office,
Austin, Texas, October 12, 1934.

To the Forty-third Legislature in Fourth Called Session:

By proclamation duly dated October 8, A. D. 1934, I have convened the Legislature in Special Session to meet at high noon on this, the 12th day of October, A. D. 1934, for the consideration of the following matters, and none other:

1. Remission of penalty and interest on delinquent taxes.
2. Authority for completion of what is known as the Buchanan Dam or dams on the Colorado River as now proposed, and necessary funds therefor.
3. Authority for the Brazos River Project for construction of dams to impound and conserve the waters thereof and the reclamation of overflowed lands, on said Brazos River and its tributaries, and necessary funds therefor.
4. The Texas Centennial and the provision for adequate funds therefor.
5. For additional and necessary relief for indigent and unemployed people of Texas as is now required.
6. To consider and act on such other subjects and questions as I as Governor may from time to time, during said called session, submit by message or otherwise to the Legislature.

With reference to said six matters submitted for your consideration, I desire to say:

First, I consider that the remission of penalty and interest on delinquent taxes at this time is perhaps one of the most vital questions affecting the condition of the people. There are thousands of homes that are now sought to be refinanced, but are not able to close said loans because the interest and penalty on taxes for some years back has accumulated in such

an amount as makes it impossible for the borrower to pay same and meet the other requirements of the loaning agencies. If full penalty and interest is required to be paid now, then it will be unjust discrimination in favor of the people who were fortunate enough to be able to pay their taxes when due. If interest and penalty is required, then the people who are required to pay same will have paid far more taxes than the taxpayers who paid their taxes when due. In some instances the penalty and interest will amount to as much as the original tax, and in a great majority of instances the interest and penalty amounts to fifty per cent of the original tax. To require these penalties and interest to be paid would be a tax on misfortune from which the rest of the taxpaying public would reap the benefit. I do not believe any fair taxpayer, though he has paid his taxes when due, will desire to take advantage of or have the Government take advantage of his brother taxpayer's misfortune.

Again, if penalties and interest are remitted, the State can hope to collect thousands of dollars of the original amount of taxes which will otherwise never be collected because thousands of taxpayers can never pay the liens and taxes plus penalty and interest now asked for under the law.

Second, the completion of what is known as the Buchanan Dam on the Colorado River was considered at length in the last Special Session of the Legislature, and I trust that confusion and intensity of feeling will not arise in the discussion of this matter again. In my opinion completion of this project will be of great benefit in combating the evils of unemployment now raging, and will add great values to the agricultural area which has connection to and relation with this project.

Third, authority for the Brazos River Project for construction of dams to impound the waters of said river and the reclamation of overflowed lands located on said river and its tributaries is perhaps the largest indus-

trial project ever proposed in Texas. It will mean no less than an expenditure by the Federal Government of fifty million dollars, and will have potential values to the agricultural area adjacent to same in the sum of one hundred million dollars in the years to come. As the Federal Government has indicated its willingness to back this proposition it would be the height of folly for Texas to reject the only opportunity it ever had to obtain the aid of the Federal Government in a project that will mean employment to thousands and the increase of millions of additional values.

Fourth, the Texas Centennial is another great project now within the grasp of the people of Texas, and were it a proposition to levy a tax upon the people in the sum of five million dollars or less without hope or possibility of reimbursement, I am frank to say that I would not approve the idea. But, since the people of Texas have voted a constitutional amendment providing for the holding of this Centennial and power to obtain funds for the holding of same, and feeling that aside from the patriotic impulses and gratification to every Texan in the celebration of one hundred years of our existence that there is every hope that the holding of said Centennial will mean tangible and material profit to our citizenship, I have decided to add my endorsement to this project, and I trust that the Legislature will weigh the subject well and carefully provide for the protection of the interests of the State and make due provision for the holding of this grand and glorious exposition.

I realize that it will cost a large sum of money—perhaps five million dollars—but in return for this expenditure Texas will receive an advertisement in the visit of people from every foreign state and nation that will place us before the world as one of its greatest commonwealths. The Texas Centennial will bring in my opinion ten million new people to Texas who will spend an average of ten dollars each for the manufactured products of our natural resources. Or, if I am wrong in my figures, then I will say that it will bring five million people who will spend twenty dollars each. No matter how you figure the Centennial, it means a hundred million dol-

lars new money turned loose in Texas. I am for it.

Fifth. Since the adjournment of the last Session of the Legislature the relief rolls of the State have continued to grow, and the latest estimate today is that we have two hundred sixty-seven thousand families now receiving relief in Texas. I am informed that the number is growing every day and will probably reach three hundred thousand families or one and one-half million people. Or in other words, one-fourth of the people in Texas will be receiving aid from the Government.

I regret to learn that under the plea of economy that the average family on relief rolls should receive only twenty dollars per month. This, in my opinion, would be a niggardly policy. With the country having gone through a disastrous drought and the great portion of our State having made little or no crops, I do not see how for the next five months any family can subsist on such a small amount. I believe those in charge of relief at Washington, and I know that our great Christian President, would abhor the idea of such penurious restrictions upon the people in this hour of their great misfortune. I want to say to this Legislature that in my opinion for the next five months the average family in Texas should receive not less than thirty dollars a month and continue the same until next spring, if possible. I think I will be permitted to say that I have always stood for economy in government and reduction in appropriations where possible. But I want no honor for economy at the expense of hungry mothers and fathers and crying children and babies. Let me say to the Legislature that if there have been abuses in the distribution of relief funds, then, as far as possible, correct same and remove the unworthy from official employment, but by all means do not commit a crime against our unfortunate people by withholding from them aid which a Christian State and a Christian people are able to provide. The last Legislature with the lights before it and rather by compromise only set aside one million dollars a month for the next five months for relief. I submit this is grossly inadequate, and I urge the Legislature to amend its recent Act and either increase the

monthly budget or, what is to me more wise, provide for the sale of the remaining three and a half million dollar bonds now unissued and leave the Board of Control, as the distributing agency of the fund, free to meet the problems of hunger and discomfort which are afflicting us this very minute.

Sixth, if the Legislature will dispose of these matters with dispatch, we may find time to consider other important matters.

I trust that the Legislature will continuously consider these matters which I have submitted for your consideration, and I am willing to cooperate in any way possible, even to the extent of working six days in the week. If the Legislature will join me we will show the people that we are religiously imbued with the problems of their necessities.

I invite the Membership to visit my office from time to time and permit me to be of service.

Respectfully submitted,
MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,
Governor of Texas.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

The Speaker laid before the House, and had read, the following message from the Governor:

Executive Office,
Austin, Texas, October 17, 1934.

To the Forty-third Legislature in
Fourth Called Session:

In addition to item four of my message to you under date of October 12, 1934, authorizing the consideration of the Texas Centennial and the provision for adequate funds therefor, permit me to say that in addition thereto I submit for your consideration the question of taxation in any way or manner to you seeming necessary or proper to raise and provide necessary funds for the holding of the Texas Centennial.

Respectfully submitted,
MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,
Governor of Texas.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. John H. Davis, secretary to the Governor, appeared at the Bar of the House, and, being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor, which was read to the House, as follows:

Executive Office,
Austin, Texas, October 22, 1934.

To the Forty-third Legislature in
Fourth Called Session:

I herewith submit for your consideration a bill hereto attached and to be entitled "An Act to define license tax, regulate and control recreation establishments, fixing the penalties for violation of said Acts, and declaring an emergency."

This Act is for the license of billiard and pool establishments, and under the strict provisions of the bill innocent amusements will be provided and at the same time yield thousands of dollars in revenue to the State which can be allocated to the public schools, or the Centennial, or to any other purpose which you may prescribe.

Respectfully submitted,
MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,
Governor of Texas.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Mr. John H. Davis, secretary to the Governor, appeared at the Bar of the House, and, being duly announced, presented the following message from the Governor, which was read to the House, as follows:

Executive Office,
Austin, Texas, October 29, 1934.

To the Forty-third Legislature in
Fourth Called Session:

By request I am submitting the attached bill, being "An Act authorizing the Secretary of the Board of Legal Examiners with the approval of the Supreme Court to appoint an assistant to serve during the months of February and March, June and July, October and November, prescribing a salary for same, authorizing payment of said assistant out of the fees of office of the Clerk of the Supreme Court; repealing all laws in conflict herewith, and declaring an emergency," which bill was passed at the last Special Session of the Legislature but through inadvertence was not signed by the officials of the State Senate.

Respectfully submitted,
MIRIAM A. FERGUSON,
Governor of Texas.